

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-31, 33-39, 41-48 and 50-56 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 21, 29, 34, 37, 42, 45 and 50 are amended. Claims 4, 32, 40 and 49 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112:**

Claims 4-11, 21, 22, 34, 35, 42 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Office rejected claim 4 as being indefinite in view of the term “jaw-like,” specifically stating at page 2, paragraph 3, that “it is not clear as to what constitutes ‘jaw-like’.” Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants respectfully submit that the term “jaw-like” is definite in the context of the specification, claims and the drawings. Nevertheless, Applicants have cancelled the term jaw-like from the claim in order to more expeditiously advance this application to allowance.

The Office further rejected claims 5-11, which directly or indirectly depend from claim 4. Claim 4 has been canceled (see the remarks regarding allowable subject matter, *infra*), and therefore, the rejection of claim 4 is moot. The dependencies of claims 5, 8, 9 and 11 have been amended in order to maintain consistency in the claim numbering and proper dependent form.

No claims in the present application contain the term “jaw-like.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-11 under §112.

The Office rejected claims 21, 34 and 42 as being indefinite in view of the term “may,” specifically stating at page 2, paragraph 4, that “[i]t is unclear as to whether the cable drum does or does not have left- and right-hand grooves because of the use of ‘may’.” The Office further rejected claims 22, 35 and 43 (depending from claims 21, 34 and 42 respectively). Applicants amended claims 21, 34 and 42 in order to delete the phrase “may include.” The deleted phrase was replaced with the term “comprises.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21, 22, 34, 35, 42 and 43 under §112.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-3, 17-20, 24-31, 33-39, 41-48 and 51-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,496,063 to Ishii et al. (“Ishii”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 4-11, 13-16, 21-23, 32, 40, 49 and 50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 depends directly from independent claim 1, claim 32 depends directly from independent claim 29, claim 40 depends directly from independent claim 37, and claim 49 depends directly from independent claim 45. Allowable claims 4, 32, 40 and 49 have no intervening dependent claims.

Applicants amended independent claim 1 to include substantially all the limitations of allowable dependent claim 4 with the exception of the term “jaw-like,” for example. Applicants amended independent claim 29 to include all of the limitations of allowable dependent claim 32. Applicants amended independent claim 37 to include all of the limitations of allowable dependent claim 40. Applicants amended independent claim 45 to include all of the limitations of allowable dependent claim 49. Claims 4, 32, 40 and 49 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Applicants submit that claims 1, 29, 37 and 45, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Moreover, if an independent claim is non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103, then any claim depending therefrom is non-obvious. *See* MPEP § 2143.03. Accordingly, because all dependent claims depend from one of claims 1, 29, 37 and 45, as-amended, all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

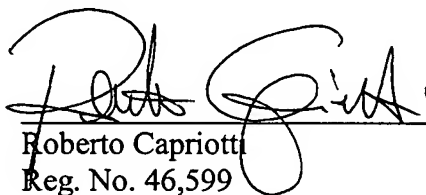
Applicants do not concede, however, the correctness of the Office Action’s rejection with respect to any of the claims. Accordingly, Applicants hereby reserve the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary to further distinguish the claims from the cited reference based on additional features contained in the claims that were not discussed above. A detailed discussion of these differences is believed to be unnecessary at this time in view of the amendments made herein.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-1110.

Respectfully submitted,

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